

April 25, 1983

LB 336

store them. I don't know what an election costs but I know it costs money.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So let's get our heads out of the sand, Senators, and realize that these amendments are nothing but tactics to kill a bill that your constituents want. I dare you to do your own survey like Rod Johnson did or like the TV stations did. You might be surprised to find out that your constituents don't agree with you at all when you say kill LB 336. So I can't go along with his amendment that says put it to a vote of the people because it is a waste of taxpayers dollars and it is insulting to the people's intelligence even though I do think Senator Hoagland offered it in the best of faith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, perhaps you noticed I didn't press the kill motion too much. I will tell you the main reason why I didn't was because I knew we had this amendment coming up and I certainly agreed with Senator Beutler and Senator Hoagland that it would be better for us to get some control than what we presently have than to eliminate that possibility, and yet at the same time I wanted to see how people felt about specifically doing away with gambling without a vote of the people. Let me just address this particular matter. One of the important issues I think in this whole thing is what is community betterment. I honestly believe we are trying to cover ourselves with a broad term to get around the Constitution and I honestly believe we ought to give the people of this state the opportunity to make that decision and not necessarily to limit themselves to community betterment. I think we strongly could have the possibility of a lawsuit over the present bill as it now reads. If we are going to put that money back in for tax relief in terms of people who are tenants, I think we...in fact if I were a tenant I think I would have a tendency to come and sue the state and I believe I would be upheld in the court. So for that reason it seems to me it is well for us to put this particular amendment through, make it possible for us to have a vote on the specific issue, and then go from there, at the same time hold the present lottery where it is. So I urge you to vote for the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell, did you want to talk on the amendment?